GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2546
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2003
PAYMENT TO ORISSA FARMERS BY FCI
PARSURAM MAJHI

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the growing exploitation of farmers in Orissa by the rice mill owners;

(b) whether there has also been inordinate delay in the payment by FCI on foodgrains procured from the farmers in Orissa;

(c) whether these acts of mill owners and FCI have led to distress sale in the State; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps taken by the FCI authorities for early settlement of dues?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SU MAHARIA)

(a),(b),(c)&(d): No reports of either distress sale of paddy conforming to FAQspecifications or exploitation of farmers by rice mill owners in Orissa have been received during the current Kharif Marketing Season 2002-2003. As on 4.3.2003, a quantity of 3.24 lakh MT of levy rice has been procured by the FCI in the State. There has been no delay in release ofpayments by the FCI. With a view to ensuring that the benefits of MSP and special drought reliefprice are passed on to the farmers, instructions have been issued by Government on 23.12.2002 that the FCI shall accept delivery of levy rice in respect of areas where the State Governmentis having effective MSP operations and there are no reports of distress sale of FAQ paddy belowMSP provided the District Collector in respect of the concerned District gives a certificate to the FCI authorities to this effect. In cases where there is no documentation to specify that the millers have paid the special drought relief price to the farmers, a second levy rice price, by deducting the special drought relief price of Rs.20/- per quintal of equivalent paddy, has been notified.